

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for releasing a volatile substance comprising:

- a housing having an interior region, an outer surface, and an opening in at least one end;

5 - a volatile substance contained within the interior region of the housing;

- means for orienting the device such that gravity forces the volatile substance toward the opening;

- means for controllably releasing the volatile substance from the housing; and

- means for heating at least one of the volatile substance or air located with the housing.

10 2. The device according to claim 1 wherein the controlled release means further includes:

- a first porous plug having a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein at least a portion of the top surface is positioned within the interior region of the housing, and at least a portion of the bottom surface is exposed to ambient atmosphere;

15 - a second porous plug having a bottom end and a top end wherein the top end is in at least partial contact with the volatile substance contained within the interior region of the housing and the bottom end is facing the top surface of the first porous plug; and

- a gap between the top surface of the first porous plug and the bottom end of the second porous plug.

20 3. The device according to claim 2 wherein:

- the second porous plug includes means for absorbing or adsorbing a portion of the

volatile substance, and, means for releasing the volatile substance into the gap in at least one of a vapor or liquid phase; and

- the first porous plug includes means for absorbing or adsorbing the vapor or liquid phase of the volatile substance from the gap and then for diffusing the volatile substance into the ambient environment in a vapor phase.

4. The device according to claim 3 wherein the absorbing or adsorbing means of the first and second porous plugs comprise the first and second porous plugs being selected from at least one of the group consisting of porous plastic, porous polymers, porous ceramics, porous metals, porous glass, fibrous material, cellulose or cellulose derivatives.

5. The device according to Claim 2 further including an emanator pad operatively associated with the first porous plug.

6. The device according to Claim 2 further including a gas generating cell associated with the interior region of the housing for controllably assisting in the flow of the volatile substance through the opening in the housing.

7. The device according to claim 1 wherein the controlled release means includes means for enabling and controlling the entrance of ambient atmosphere into the interior region of the housing.

8. The device according to Claim 7 wherein the ambient air control means comprises at least a portion of the housing being constructed from a material which is substantially impermeable to the volatile substance within the interior region of the housing yet substantially permeable to the ambient atmosphere.

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9. The device according to Claim 8 further including means for controllably diffusing the volatile substance into the ambient environment in a vapor phase.

10. The device according to Claim 9 wherein the diffusion means includes at least one porous plug at least partially positioned within the interior region of the housing and associated with the volatile substance.

11. The device according to Claim 9 wherein the diffusion means includes an emanator pad associated with at least one of the volatile substance or at least one porous plug.

12. The device according to Claim 7 wherein the ambient air control means includes an adjustable valve associated with the housing.

13. The device according to Claim 7 further including a gas generating cell associated with the interior region of the housing for controllably assisting in the flow of the volatile substance through the opening in the housing.

14. The device according to claim 1 wherein the controlled release means includes an electrochemical gas generating cell operatively associated with the interior region of the housing.

5 15. The device according to claim 1 wherein the controlled release means includes means for enabling and controlling the entrance of ambient atmosphere into the interior region of the housing.

10 16. The device according to Claim 1 further including means for re-supplying additional volatile substance into the interior region of the housing when desired.

17. The device according to Claim 16 wherein the re-supply means comprises a replaceable volatile substance cartridge.

15 18. A device for releasing a volatile substance comprising:

- a housing having an interior region, an outer surface, and an opening in at least one end;
- a volatile substance contained within the interior region of the housing;
- means for orienting the device such that gravity forces the volatile substance toward the opening;
- 20 - means for controllably releasing the volatile substance from the housing; and
- means for increasing the circulation of air proximate the opening.

19. The device according to Claim 18 wherein the circulation increasing means comprises a fan.

20. The device according to Claim 19 wherein the device further includes means for heating
5 at least one of the volatile substance.

21. The device according to Claim 19 wherein the controlled release means includes a gas generating cell operatively associated with the interior region of the housing.

10 22. The device according to Claim 21 wherein the gas generating cell comprises one of an electrochemical gas generating cell or a chemical gas generating cell.

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